PAT-NO:

JP403154857A

DOCUMENT-IDENTIFIER: JP 03154857 A

TITLE:

NONDESTRUCTIVE INSPECTING METHOD

PUBN-DATE:

July 2, 1991

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APPL-NO:

JP01292255

APPL-DATE:

November 13, 1989

INT-CL (IPC): G01N025/72

US-CL-CURRENT: 374/46

ABSTRACT:

PURPOSE: To detect a defect or damage in the structure member of not only a metallic material with high accuracy without destruction, but also a compound material by detecting the defect or damage according to the measured value distribution of variation of a nonsteady temperature field wherein an impulsive thermal load is placed.

CONSTITUTION: A pulse current is supplied from a pulse current supply power unit 13 which is controlled by a computer 14 to the object structure member 12 to place the impulsive thermal load on the member 12. The time variation of

the nonsteady temperature field corresponding to the defect or damage in the presence of the thermal load is measured as a temperature distribution through an infrared camera 15 and infrared thermography 16 to identify the defect or damage of the member 12 through the computer 14. Even when impulsive thermal load is placed with laser pulse light, the same result is obtained, so the defect or damage in the structure member of not only the metallic material, but also the composite material can be detected with high accuracy without destruction.

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19 日本国特許庁(JP)

① 特許出願公開

⑫ 公 開 特 許 公 報 (A) 平3-154857

@Int.Cl. 5

識別記号 庁内整理番号 ❸公開 平成3年(1991)7月2日

G 01 N 25/72

Y 8310-2G

> 請求項の数 3 (全7頁) 審査請求 有

非破壞検査方法 69発明の名称

> ②特 願 平1-292255

22出 願 平1(1989)11月13日

特許法第30条第1項適用 平成元年5月23日-24日、社団法人日本材料学会主催の「第38期学術講演 会」において文書をもつて発表

敬二 @発 小 倉 大阪府吹田市山田西3-10-2

明 隆英 大阪府東大阪市小阪本町1-8-12 共保ピル508 20発 者 阪 H

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四代 理 人 弁理士 鈴江 武彦 外3名

1. 発明の名称

非破坡檢查方法

- 2. 特許請求の範囲
- (1) 検査対象である構造部材に、パルス状熱負 荷を与え、このパルス状熱負荷の下での非定常温 度場の変化を測定し、この測定値の分布にもとづ いて前記構造部材の欠陥及び/又は提傷を検出す る非破場校査方法。
- (2) パルス状熱負荷の供給は、パルス状電流を 流しておこなう請求項1に記載の非破壊検査方法。
- (3) パルス状熱負荷の下での非定常特異温度場 を測定して、構造部材の無裂状欠陥を検出する請 求項1または2に記載の非破壊検査方法。
- 3. 発明の詳細な説明

[産業上の利用分野]

本発明は、構造部材、とくに金属材料及び複合 材料の欠陥や損傷を非破壊検査する方法の改良に 関する。

[従来の技術]

物体中に存在するき裂、欠陥あるいは損傷を非 破場的に検出し、その位置、形状および寸法を測 定することは、構造物の安全性評価を行ううえで 重要である。現在までに、欠陥あるいは損傷の検 出に用いられている非破壊校査手法としては、超 音波法、X線法など様々なものがある。しかしな がら、実構造物中の欠陥および損傷を精度よく測 定することは、構造物中に発生・伝播する損傷は 複雑な形状を呈していること、構造物をとりまく 環境あるいは寸法的限界のため稼働状態にある構 造物に適用できる手法が限られること、などの理 出により必ずしも容易ではない。このため、検査 対象に応じてそれに適した特性を有する検査手法 :が相補的に用いられているのが現状であり、構造 物中の欠陥・損傷をより高精度に測定できる非破 **域検査手法の開発が要求されている。**

さらに、最近、構造物には従来の金属材料に代 わる軽量かつ高強度な複合材料が多用されるよう になってきており、複合材料中の欠陥および損傷 を稍度よく測定できる非破壊検査手法の開発が急

務となっている。超音波法など従来から用いられている非破域検査手法を復合材料に適用することも多く試みられている。しかし、複合材料は異種材の積磨あるいは混合など、これまでの材料にない構造的異方性を呈しているため、その破域形態は複雑であり、複合材料中の損傷の非破壊ですることは難しく、複合材料中の損傷の非破壊を高適用できる決定的な手法は、これまでのところ開発されていない。

[発明が解決しようとする技術的課題]

本発明の目的は、金属材料のみならず複合材料中の火陥および損傷を精度よく測定、検出する非破壊検査方法を提供することである。

[課題を解決する手段]

本発明方法は、物体中に欠陥あるいは損傷が存在すると、それらの影響を受けて物体に形成される温度場が変化することを利用するものであり、特に、欠陥・損傷の高感度検出には、短時間のパルス状然負荷の下での非定常温度場の変化の検出が極めて有効であるという本発明者が見出した新

物体表面の温度分布の測定には、赤外線カメラ 15及び赤外線サーモグラフィ16を用いる。赤外線サーモグラフィは短時間の熱伝導現象にも対 応できる高速かつ高精度な温度測定が可能である。 赤外線サーモグラフィ16をコンピュータ14と しい知見に基づくものである。

すなわち、本発明は検査対象とする金属材料や投合材料などの構造部材に、直流、交流などのパルス状を一が光の過程、成りによる瞬間的な熱負荷を与え、この時の非定常熱伝導による部材表面の温度分布、特に非常特異温度場を測定し、これを悲に欠陥(特に鬼殺状欠陥)或いは損傷を検出して、その位置、形状および寸法の同定をおこなうものである。

本発明検査方法を実施するためのシステムとして、材料を瞬時加熱するための加熱装置、材料な面の温度分布測定を行う赤外線サーモグラフィ、及び温度分布データを逆問題数値解析処理し、損傷を同定・グラフィック表示する小型コンピュータをオンラインで接続した測定システムが挙げられる。

[発明の具体例]

第1図に示すような欠陥あるいは損傷11を含む部材12へ本発明方法を適用した例を示す。 部材12にパルス状熱負荷を与える方法としては、

接続することにより、パルス電流供給電波装置 13との同期による温度分布測定、および温度分 布データのオンライン処理を行う。

温度分布データの処理については、物体表面の 温度分布を氷外線サーモグラフィにより可視化・ 画 優 処 理 し 、 パ ル ス 状 熱 負 荷 を 与 え て か ら の 変 化 の状態を観察するだけでも、物体中の欠陥・損傷 の設出を行うことが十分に可能であり、これが本 発明方法の基本的システムとなる。さらに進んだ 欠陥・損傷の定益的評価を行うためには、物体表 而の温度分布データから損傷を同定するプロセス に、逆間題解析のアプローチを導入する。すなわ ち、様々なパルス状熱負荷のもとで測定された非 定常温度分布に関する多量のデータを、コンピュ ータによる逆問題数値解析により処理することに より、物体中の欠陥・損傷の位置、形状および寸 法を定量的に測定する。逆問題解析手法としては、 最も現実的な方法として、様々な熱負荷および損 個に対する温度分布のデータベースを有限要素計 算などにより作成し、実際に測定された温度分布

をこれと比較することにより、欠陥・損傷の定益 評価を行う方法が有効である。

[発明の効果]

本発明によれば、物体表面の非定常温度分布に 送づく非破域検査ができるとともに、従来の方法 では制定が困難であった複合材料中の欠陥・損傷 の定量評価に対しても適用可能である。すなわち、

(i) 本別定法は、検査環境に左右されず、複雑な形状を育する実構造物の非破場検査にも適用でき、構造物中の欠陥・損傷のその場似系およびリアルタイムモニタリングが可能である。

(ii) 本制定法は、金属材料などの均質材料のみならず、複合材料にも適用が可能であり、複合材料特有の損傷、例えば剥離損傷などの評価にも有用である。

(111) 本測定法は、被測定物を赤外線サーモグラフィの測定範囲内に促えることが可能な限り、 基本的にいかなる寸法の測定対象、例えば、電子 部品などの極めて小さなものから、航空機、ブラ ント施設など大きな構造物に至るまで、適用でき

非定常温度場に及ぼす影響を調べるため、有限要素法による数値シミュレーションを行った。問題の対象性より、第2図に影をつけた4分の1領域ABCDについて解析を行った。解析方法を以下に示す。

非定常熱伝導方程式は、二次元問題で等方均質を仮定した場合、次式により与えられる。

ρ c (θ T / θ t) = λ { (θ ² T / θ x ²) + (θ ² T / θ y ²) } + Q (1) ここで、ρ は密度、 c は比熱、 λ は熱伝導率、 T は温度、 Q は単位体積あたりの発熱率である。 ジ ュール熱の場合の発熱率 Q は、ポテンシャル φ お よび帯電率 k を用いて、次式のように表される。

 $Q = k \left(\left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial x} \right)^{2} + \left(\frac{\partial \phi}{\partial y} \right)^{2} \right)$ (2)

そこで、まず、電気ポテンシャル問題を解くことにより、領域内におけるジュール熱による発熱 単分布を計算し、つぎに、この発熱率分布をもと る。特に、複合材料を多用する傾向にある航空字 宙関連分野における、有効な非破壊検査方法とな る。また、材料の強度評価のために実験室レベル で行われる種々の材料強度試験の際にも、試験片 中の損傷の進展をリアルクイムに評価できる制定 方法として有効である。

[火施例]

以下、本発明の実施例を説明する。 実施例 1

非定常温度分布を用いた二次元き製周定

測定対象 測定の対象としたのは、第2図に示すようなステンレス鋼の薄板は験片中の二次元中央き裂である。第2図に示したようには験片の両端に取り付けた圧沓端子を通じて、パルス状の直流電流を供給した時のジュール熱に起因する、試験片表面の非定常温度場をもとに、き製の同定を行った。図中、数値は寸法(m)を、英記号は試験片の位置を示す。

数値シミュレーション き裂の存在が、パルス 電流によるジュール熱の発生、およびそれによる

に、非定常熱伝導問題を解くことにより、領域内の非定常温度分布を求めた。電気ポテンシャル問題、非定常熱伝導問題ともに、有限要素法の定式化にはGalerkin法を用い、三角形一次要素による離散化を行った。また、非定常問題の時間的離散化には、Crank-Nicolsonの差分式を用いた。

解析の境界条件としては、 花気ポテンシャル問題では、 CD上で φ = 200 mV、 AB上のリガメント部分で φ = 0 mVの電気ポテンシャル値を与え、それ以外の部分は自由境界とした。 非定常熱伝導問題では、 CD上で湿度拘束条件 T = 0 ℃を与え、それ以外を断熱境界とした。 また、 初期温度は領域内のいたるところで、 T = 0 ℃とした。

以下に、解析結果(き裂付近(第2図のABFE)の温度分布のみ)を示す。まず、定常状態における温度分布を表す等温線を第3図に示す。図中の矢印は、き裂先端の位置を、ΔTは、等温線間の温度差を表す。図より、き裂が存在する部分、特にリガメント部分が高温になっていることがわかるが、これだけではき裂先端の位置を間定する

ことは困難である。一方、非定常温度分布の解析 特果として、通電開始からの等温線の時間的変化 を第4図に示す。この図より、通電開始直後から き数先端部分に周所的な温度上昇が見られ、時間 の経過とともに周囲に熱が拡散している様子がわ かる。この状態は、き数先端に集中発熱級が存在 している場合とより、き数先端の位置の同定が可 能である。

実験結果 第2図に示した二次元中央き製試験 片に、10Aの直流電流を約1秒間供給した時の ジュール熱発生による非定常温度分布を、赤外線 サーモグラフィ(日本アピオニクスTVS-3300)を 用いて測定した。

まず、定常状態における温度分布を第5図に示す。これを第3図に示した解析結果と比較すると、温度分布の傾向に違いが見られる。これは、二次元間頭の解析では試験片表面および端面からの熱伝達を考慮していないためであると考えられる。次に、通ば開始からの非定常温度分布を第6図に

より入れた。凶中、数値は寸法(■)を示す。

試験片を第7図に示したように磁気粉末探傷用の電流供給装置の電極にはさみ、試験片端部から電流を供給した。供給電流を2kA、通電時間を1秒間とし、通電開始からの試験片表面(き裂開口側表面およびき裂背面)の非定常温度分布を赤外線サーモグラフィを用いて観察した。

まず、き裂閉口側表面の温度分布の変化を第8 図に示す。図よりわかるように、前述の二次元き 裂の場合と同様に、き裂の先端部分において局所 的な温度上界が見られ、これをもとにき裂ることが可能である。次に、き裂背面の温度分布の変化を第9図に示する。次に、き裂の最深部をもとにき裂の存在の 検出が可能であり、その位置を同じますることにより、き裂の表面長さおよび深さを同くない。 き裂の表面長さおよび深さるのでは、き裂の表面長さおよび深さる

示す。この結果は、前述の数値シミュレーションで得られた非定常温度分布とよく一致している。 すなわち、通電開始直後からき製先端部を中心とする局所的な温度上昇が見られ、そこから周囲に 熱が拡散している。したがって、パルス電流負荷直後の発熱の集中部位を、サーモグラフィの熱画 像をもとに同定することにより、き数先端の位置を同定することが可能である。

以上のことから、パルス電流負荷 時の温度分布 をもとにしたき製同定においては、き裂による非 定常温度場の特異性すなわち集中発熱源を検出す ることが有効であることがわかる。

尖施例2

非定常温度分布を用いた三次元き製岡定

パルス電流負荷時の、き裂による非定常温度場の特異性を利用した欠陥検出法を、三次元表面を 製同定に適用した。第7図に示すような厚さ 6 mm のステンレス制板中に存在する、複数表面き裂の 同定を行った。第7図に示したように、試験片の 中央に深さ4.5 mmの表面き裂を2個、放芯加工に

定できる可能性がある。

灾施例3

CFRPは設庁の両端に電極を取付け、パルス 状の電流を供給した。は設庁には、第1階と2階 の間にテフロンシートを挟むことにより、劉雄摄

特開平3-154857(5)

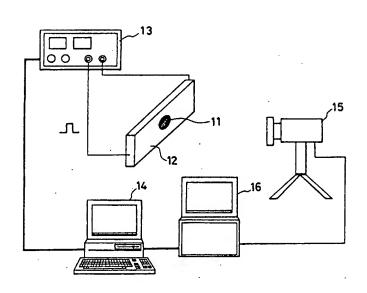
4. 図面の簡単な説明

第1図は本発明方法を実施するための装置の組合せの1例を示す図、第2図は実施例1での測定対象及び電流供給方法を示す図、第3図は定常状態における温度分布の有限要素解析結果を示す図、第4図は非定常温度分布の有限要素解析結果を示

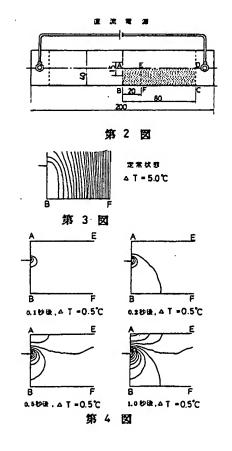
す図、第5図は定常状態における温度分布の測定 結果を示す図、第6図(a)~第6図(c)は非 定常温度分布の温定結果を示す図、第7図は実施 例2での測定対象及び電流供給方法を示す図、第 8図(a)~第8図(c)は非定常温度分布の測 定結果(き裂別口側表面)を示す図、第9図(a) ~第9図(c)は非定常温度分布の測定結果(き 数背面)を示す図、第10図(a)及び第10図 (b)は実施例3での複合材料試験片の非定常温度分布を示す図である。

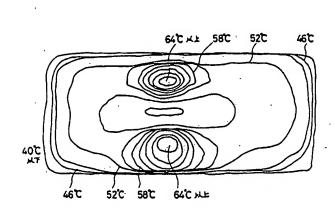
11…欠陥あるいは損傷、12…検査対象である協造部材、13…パルス電流供給電源装置、14…コンピュータ、15…赤外線カメラ、16…赤外線サーモグラフィ。

出願人代理人 弁理士 给证武彦

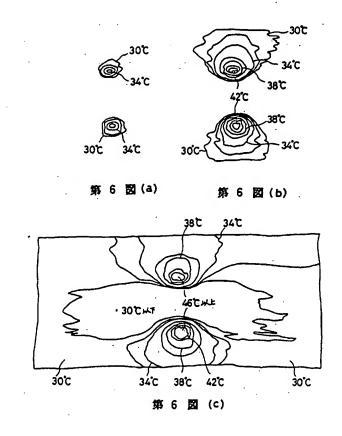


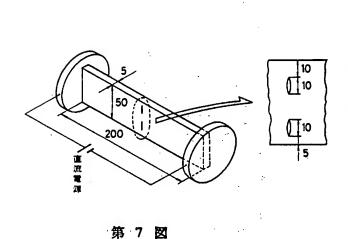
第 1 図

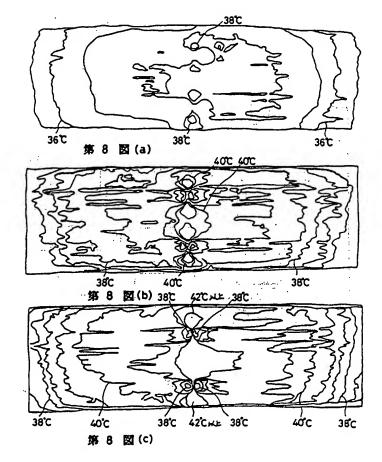




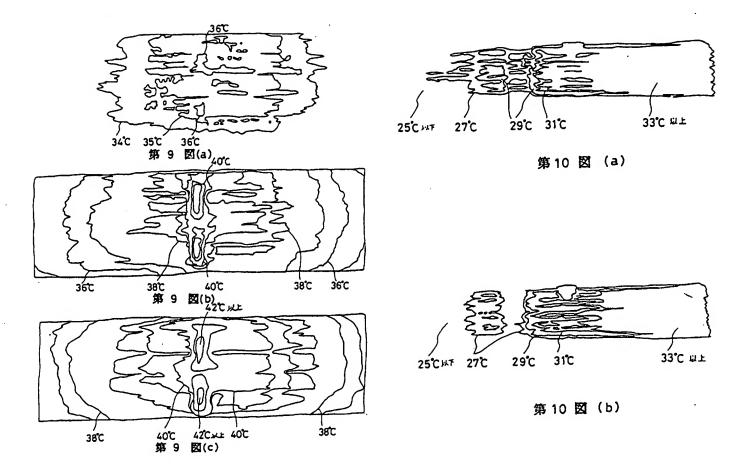
第 5 図







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NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTION METHOD [Hihakai Kensa Hoho]

Keiji Ogura and Takahide Sakagami

UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE Washington, D.C. October 2005

Translated by: Schreiber Translations, Inc.

<u>Country</u> : Japan

Document No. : H03-154857

Document Type : Kokai

<u>Language</u> : Japanese

Inventor : Keiji Ogura and Takahide Sakagami

<u>Applicant</u>: Osaka University

IPC : G 01 N 25/72

Application Date : November 13, 1989

Publication Date : July 2, 1991

Foreign Language Title : Hihakai Kensa Hoho

English Title : NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTION METHOD

Specification

1. Title of the invention

NON-DESTRUCTIVE INSPECTION METHOD

2. Patent Claims

1. A non-destructive inspection method wherein a pulsated heat load is impressed onto a structural component provided as an inspection target, wherein the variation of a non-steady temperature field is measured under the pervasion of this pulsated heat load is measured, and wherein defects and/or damages of the aforementioned structural component are detected based on the distribution of the obtained measurement values.

2. A non-destructive inspection method specified in Claim 1 wherein said pulsated heat load is fed by permeating a pulsated current.

3. A non-destructive inspection method specified in Claim 1 or 2 wherein crack-shaped defects of the structural component are detected by subjecting a non-steady peculiar temperature field to a measurement under the pervasion of the pulsated heat load.

3. Detailed explanation of the invention

(Industrial application fields)

The present invention concerns an improved non-destructive method for inspecting defects or damages of structural components, above all metallic materials and composite materials.

 $^{^{\}mbox{\scriptsize 1}}$ Numbers in the margin indicate pagination in the foreign text.

(Prior art)

It is important, from the standpoint of evaluating the safety of a structural object, to detect cracks, defects, or damages existing within said object in a non-destructive fashion and to measure their positions, shapes, and dimensions. Non-destructive inspection methodologies heretofore used for detecting defects or damages are instantiated by various ones such as the ultrasound method, X ray method, etc. It is not necessarily easy, however, to measure defects and damages within an actual structural object in a high precision for various reasons (e.g., convoluted shapes of damages generated & diffused within the structural object, restrictions on methodologies that can be applied to structural objects abiding in operative states due to environmental or dimensional limits imposed on said structural objects, etc.). Inspection methods bearing attributes peculiarly suited for inspection targets are therefore being used in complementary fashions at present, and the development of a non-destructive inspection method capable of measuring, in a more advanced precision, defects and/or damages within a structural object has accordingly become urgent.

In recent years, furthermore, composite materials light in weight and high in strengths have come to be used frequently in place of metallic materials known in the prior art, and the development of a non-destructive inspection method capable of measuring defects and damages within such a composite material in a favorable precision has therefore become an urgent task. /2 Many attempts are being made to apply, to composite materials, traditionally used non-destructive inspection methodologies such as the ultrasound method, etc. Composite materials, however, bear structural anisotropies absent among extant materials due to lamination, mixing, etc. of heterologous materials, and since their destruction morphologies are complex, it is difficult to measure damages within such composite materials in favorable precisions, and thus, definitive methodologies that can be applied to non-destructive inspections of damages within composite materials have yet to be developed.

(Technical problems to be solved by the invention)

The objective of the present invention is to provide a non-destructive inspection method capable of measuring & detecting, in a favorable precision, defects and damages within not only metallic materials but also composite materials.

(Mechanism for solving the problems)

The method of the present invention takes advantage of the variation of a temperature field formed within an object due to the effects of defects or damages existing within said object, and in particular, it is predicated on the novel insight gained by the present inventors that the detection of the variation of a non-steady temperature field under the pervasion of a pulsated heat load over a brief period is extremely effective for detecting defects and/or damages in high sensitivities.

In other words, as far as the present invention is concerned, a heat load is momentarily impressed on a structural component provided as an inspection target (e.g., metallic material, composite material, etc.) by permeating a pulsated current (e.g., DC, AC, etc.) through the latter or by irradiating a pulsated laser beam, etc. instead, whereas the temperature distribution on the component surface ascribed to the concomitantly incurred non-steady heat conduction, or the non-steady peculiar temperature field, in particular, is measured, whereas defects (especially crack-shaped defects) or damages are detected based on the obtained measurement data for identifying their positions, shapes, and dimensions.

Systems orchestrated for implementing the inspection method of the present invention are instantiated by a measurement system provided by connecting, on-line, a heating device designed to instantaneously heat a material, an infrared thermographic unit designed to measure the temperature distribution on the material surface, and a compact computer designed to execute inverse problem numerical analyses of the obtained temperature distribution data and to identify & graphically display damages.

(Concrete examples of the invention)

A case where the method of the present invention is applied to a component (12) in possession of the damage (11) shown in Figure 1 will be instantiated. Conceivable methods for impressing pulsated heat loads onto the component (12) include a method wherein a pulsated laser beam is irradiated onto the object, a method wherein heating is rendered by Joule's heat generated by feeding a pulsated current through the object, etc. As one embodiment, a damage identification scheme that uses a method wherein instantaneous heating is rendered by impressing a pulsated current from the pulsated current feeding power source device (13) will hereby be instantiated. This method is a method that can be applied to an electroconductive material (e.g., metallic material, carbon fiber-reinforced composite material, etc.) and can instantaneously heat the object effectively by using a relatively simple apparatus. As Figure 1 indicates, a pulsated current is fed by controlling a stabilization electrode with the computer (14). In a case where the like of a composite material bearing a laminate structure is provided as a measurement target, mutually different temperature fields can be generated within the object by diversely altering layers through which the electric current is permeated, and it becomes possible to identify damages in a more advanced precision by totaling these fields.

The infrared camera (15) and the infrared thermograph (16) are used for measuring the temperature distribution on the object surface. The infrared thermograph enables a high-speed, high-precision temperature measurement capable of accommodating heat conduction phenomena over brief periods. A temperature distribution measurement synchronous with the pulsated current feeding power source device (13) and an on-line routine for processing the temperature distribution data are executed by connecting the infrared thermograph (16) to the computer (14).

In the context of processing the temperature distribution data, defects and/or damages within the object can be sufficiently detected by simply visualizing & imaging, via infrared thermographic means, the temperature distribution on the object surface and by observing the state of variation incurred upon the impression of the non-steady heat load, and the fundamental system of the

method of the present invention is thus provided. An inverse problem analysis approach is introduced to a process whereby damages are identified from the temperature distribution data on the object surface in the context of rendering more advanced quantitative evaluations of defects and/or damages. In other words, large volumes of data concerning non-steady temperature distributions measured under diverse pulsated heat load conditions are subjected to computerized inverse problem numerical analyses for the purpose of quantitatively measuring the positions, shapes, and dimensions of defects and/or damages within the object. The most realistic & effective method is an inverse problem numerical analysis method wherein a temperature distribution database encompassing diverse heat loads & damages is built by means of the computation of finite elements, etc. and wherein defects and/or damages are quantitatively evaluated by comparing the formulated data with an actually measured temperature distribution.

(Effects of the invention)

It becomes possible, according to the present invention, not only to ensure a non-destructive inspection based on the non-steady temperature distribution of an object surface but also to render quantitative evaluations of defects and/or damages within composite materials, which have been difficult to measure based on methods known in the prior art. In other words,

- (I): The present measurement method can be applied to non-destructive inspections of actual structural objects bearing convoluted shapes regardless of inspection environments, based on which on-site observations and real time monitoring of defects and/or damages within structural objects become possible;
- (II): The present measurement method can be applied not only to homogeneous materials such as metallic materials, etc. but also to composite materials, and it is also useful for evaluating damages unique to composite materials (e.g., peel damages, etc.);
- (III): The present measurement method can fundamentally be applied to measurement targets of all conceivable dimensions so long as measurement targets can be captured within the

infrared thermographic measurement range, namely not only extremely small objects such as electronic components but also large structural objects such as aircrafts, plant facilities, etc. It avails itself, in particular, as an effective non-destructive inspection method in the field of aerospace engineering, where composite materials tend to be used frequently. On occasions for conducting various material strength tests in laboratory settings for evaluating material strengths, furthermore, it is effective as a measurement method capable of evaluating, in real time, the history of damages within a testpiece.

(Application examples)

In the following, application examples of the present invention will be explained.

Application Example 1: Two-dimensional crack identification based on a non-steady temperature distribution

Measurement target: A two-dimensional central crack within a thin testpiece sheet made of a stainless steel was targeted for measurement, as Figure 2 indicates. An attempts was made, as Figure 2 indicates, to identify the crack based on a non-steady temperature field on the surface of the testpiece attributed to Joule's heat generated in a case where a pulsated DC current is fed via contiguous press terminals attached to both terminals of the testpiece. In the figure, the numerical values signify dimensions (mm), whereas Roman alphabet notations signify testpiece positions.

Numerical simulation: Numerical simulation based on the finite element method was rendered for the purpose of investigating the effects of the existence of the crack on the Joule's heat generated under the pervasion of a pulsated current as well as on the non-steady temperature field attributed to the former. Shadowed quarter regions A, B, C, & D shown in Figure 2 were analyzed depending on problem targeting potentials. The analysis method is shown below.

A non-steady heat conduction equation is, in a case where isotropic homogeneity is assumed with regard to a two-dimensional problem, expressed by the following formula:

$$\rho c (?T/?t) = \lambda \{(?^2T/?x^2) + (?^2T/?y^2)\} + Q ... (1).$$

In the above, ρ signifies the density, whereas c signifies the specific heat, whereas λ signifies the thermoconductivity, whereas T signifies the temperature, whereas Q signifies the heat generation ratio per unit volume. The heat generation ratio Q specific to the case of Joule's heat can, by using the potential ϕ and electroconductivity k, be expressed by the following formula:

$$Q = k \{(?\phi/?x)^2 + (?\phi/?y)^2\} \dots (2).$$

An attempt is therefore made in the first place to calculate the heat generation ratio distribution attributed to Joule's heat within the designated region by solving an electric potential problem, and subsequently, the non-steady temperature distribution within said region is calculated by solving a non-steady heat conduction problem based on this heat generation ratio distribution. Both the electric potential problem and non-steady heat conduction problem were formulated in terms of finite elements based on the Cal[e]rkin method and were discretely defined in terms of triangular primary elements. The Crank-Nicolson differential formula was used for the temporally discrete expressions of non-steady problems.

As far as analysis border conditions are concerned, ϕ = 2- mV was assigned to CD with regard to the electric potential problem, whereas an electric potential value of ϕ = 0 mV was assigned to the ligament segment on AB, whereas free borders were assigned to remainder portions. The temperature binding condition T = 0°C was assigned to CD with regard to the non-steady heat conduction problem, whereas heat insulation borders were assigned to remainder portions. Moreover, T = 0°C was designated as the initial temperature at every position within the region.

In the following, analysis results {only the temperature distribution in the vicinity of the crack (ABFE in Figure 2)} will be shown. First, an isothermal curve that expresses the temperature distribution of a steady state is shown in Figure 3. The arrow in the figure signifies the position of the distal end of the crack, whereas ΔT signifies the temperature differential between isothermal curves. It can be judged from the figure that the portion in which the crack exists, especially the

ligament segment thereof, bears a high temperature, although it is difficult to identify the position of the crack distal end as it is. The temporal variation of the isothermal curve since the /4 commencement of current permeation, on the other hand, is shown in Figure 4. It can be judged from this figure that a local temperature gain is observed at the crack distal end since immediately after the commencement of the current permeation and that the heat is diffused into its peripherals over time. This state is quite analogous to a case where a centralized heat generation source exists at the crack distal end, and the position of the crack distal end can be identified by calculating the position of this pointwise heat source.

Experimental results: The non-steady temperature-distribution attributed to the generation of Joule's heat in a case where a DC current of 10 A was permeated through the two-dimensionally & centrally cracked testpiece shown in Figure 2 for approximately 1 sec. was measured by using an infrared thermograph (Nihon Avionics TVS-3300).

First, the temperature distribution of the steady state is shown in Figure 5. In a case where this distribution is compared with the analysis results shown in Figure 3, their respective temperature distribution tendencies are observed to be different. This difference is presumably attributed to the fact that heat transmissions from the testpiece surface and edge plane are not taken into consideration with regard to the analysis of the two-dimensional problem. Next, the non-steady temperature distribution after the commencement of current permeation is shown in Figure 6. These results coincide well with the above-mentioned non-steady temperature distribution ascertained by means of numerical simulation. In other words, a local temperature gain centering around the crack distal end is observed since immediately after the commencement of the current permeation, and the heat is diffused from this localized site into the peripherals thereof. The position of the crack distal end can therefore be identified by identifying the cnetralized site of heat generation immediately after the impression of the pulsated current load based on the thermogram of the thermograph.

It can be judged from the foregoing analysis that the detection of the peculiarity of a non-steady temperature field attributed to a crack, namely centralized heat generation source, is effective for identifying the crack based on the temperature distribution under the pervasion of the pulsated current load.

Application Example 2: Three-dimensional crack identification based on the use of a non-steady temperature distribution

A defect detection method designed to take advantage of the peculiarity of a non-steady temperature field attributed to a crack under the pervasion of a pulsated current load was applied to three-dimensional surface crack identification. Multiple surface cracks existing within the stainless steel sheet with a thickness of 6 mm shown in Figure 7 were identified. As Figure 7 indicates, two surface cracks with depths of 4.5 mm were created at the center of the testpiece by means of discharge processing. In the figure, the numerical values signify dimensions (mm).

The testpiece was, as Figure 7 indicates, sandwiched by the electrodes of a current feeding device designed for magnetic powder probing purposes, and a current was fed via the edge portion of the testpiece. The feed current magnitude and current permeation period were designated respectively at 2 kA and 1 sec., and the non-steady temperature distributions of the testpiece surfaces (front surface on which the crack had been formed and surface behind said crack) since the commencement of the current permeation were observed by using an infrared thermograph.

First, the variation of the temperature distribution on the front surface where the crack had been formed is shown in Figure 8. As can be judged from this figure, a local temperature gain is acknowledged at the distal end of the crack, as in the case of the above-mentioned two-dimensional crack, and the position & surface length of the crack can be identified based on this pattern. Next, the variation of the temperature distribution on the surface behind said crack is shown in Figure 9. A local temperature gain centering around the deepest portion of the surface crack is acknowledged on the rear surface, and not only can the existence of the crack be detected based on this attribute

but its position can also be identified. If quantitative data on the heat diffusion state and temperature gain ratio can be obtained, furthermore, the crack surface length & depth can potentially be identified by rendering inverse problem evaluations based on experimental or numerical analysis-based calibrating relationships.

Application Example 3: Application to peel damage detection of a carbon fiber-type composite material

The above-mentioned damage detection method that uses a non-steady temperature distribution under the pervasion of a pulsated current load can be applied not only to metallic materials but also to electroconductive carbon fiber-type composite materials such as CFRP, etc. In the case of a composite material, in particular, heating actions predicated on diverse current feeding methods (e.g., through specified layers or corresponding interlayer gaps) are possible by virtue of the anisotropy of its laminate structure. A damage evaluation method suitable for the detections not only of cracks and/or notches generated as a result of fiber fractures but also of interlayer peeling, which represents an important composite material destruction morphology, can therefore be developed by selecting an appropriate heating method. An attempt was therefore made in the present experimental example to identify a peel damage of a CFRP testpiece (epoxy type, 0-90° lamination) based on the non-steady temperature distribution of a case where a current was permeated through said testpiece.

Electrodes were attached to both terminals the CFRP testpiece, and a pulsated current was then fed into the latter. A peel damage was induced on said testpiece by inserting a Teflon sheet inbetween the first & second layers thereof. The temperature distribution of the testpiece achieved /5 immediately after the feeding of the current is shown in Figure 10. The testpiece was heated under the pervasion of Joule's heat since immediately after the current permeation, although a local temperature loss was momentarily incurred in the vicinity of the peel damage site shown in the figure. Although the relationship between the peel damage and non-steady temperature distribution

must also be verified by means of numerical analysis, etc., peel damages can at least be identified based on the non-steady temperature distribution. It is necessary, according to this method, to capture a momentary temperature variation in the course of rapid heat generation & heat diffusion processes, whereas peel damages can be identified by the method of the present invention by using a recently developed infrared thermograph capable of high-speed temperature distribution data sampling.

4. Brief explanation of the figures

Figure 1 is a diagram which shows an example of combination of devices in the context of implementing the method of the present invention, whereas Figure 2 is a diagram which shows the measurement target and current feeding method in Application Example 1, whereas Figure 3 is a diagram which shows finite element analysis results on the temperature distribution of a steady state, whereas Figure 4 is a diagram which shows finite element analysis results on a non-steady temperature distribution, whereas Figure 5 is a diagram which shows measurement results on the temperature distribution of the steady state, whereas Figure 6 (a) ~ Figure 6 (c) are diagrams which show measurement results on non-steady temperature distributions, whereas Figure 7 is a diagram which shows the measurement target and current feeding method in Application Example 2, whereas Figure 8 (a) ~ Figure 8 (c) are diagrams which show measurement results on non-steady temperature distributions (front surface on which the crack had been formed), whereas Figure 9 (a) ~ Figure 9 (c) are diagrams which show measurement results on non-steady temperature distributions (surface behind said crack), whereas Figure 10 (a) & Figure 10 (b) are diagrams which show the non-steady temperature distributions of the composite material testpiece of Application Example 3.

(11): Defect or damage; (12): Structural component provided as an inspection target; (13): Pulsated current feeding power source device; (14): Computer; (15): Infrared camera; (16): Infrared thermograph.

Applicant's agent: Takehiko Suzue, patent attorney

Figure 1

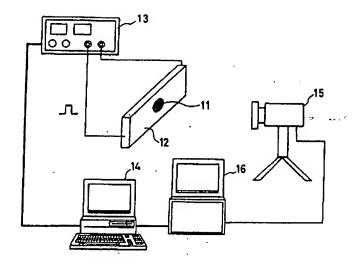
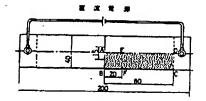


Figure 2



[(1): DC power source]

Figure 3



[(1): Steady state]

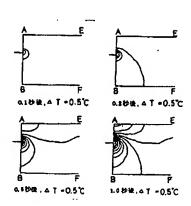
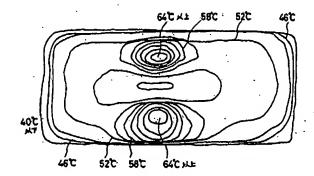


Figure 4

[(1): 0.1 sec. later; (2): 0.2 sec. later; (1): 0.3 sec. later; (1): 1.0 sec. later]

Figure 5

/<u>6</u>



[(1): Or lower; (2): Or higher]

Figure 6 (a)

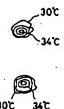


Figure 6 (b)

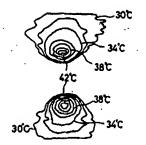
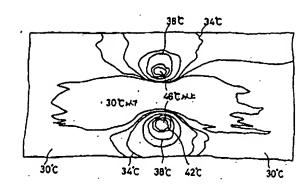
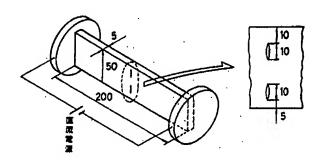


Figure 6 (c)



[(1): Or lower; (2): Or higher]

Figure 7



[(1): DC power source]

Figure 8 (a)

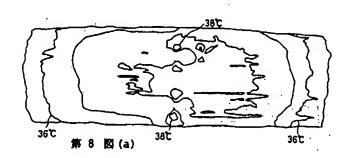
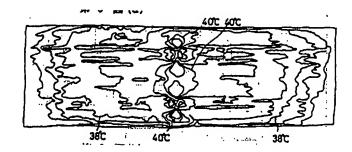
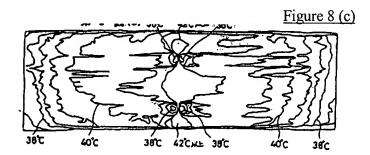


Figure 8 (b)





[(1): Or higher]

Figure 9 (a)

/<u>7</u>

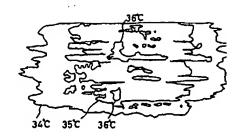


Figure 9 (b)

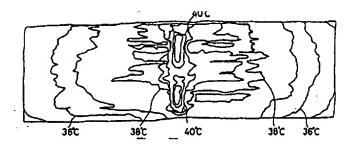
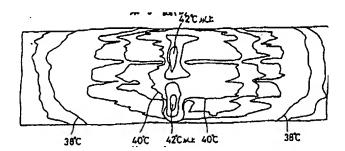
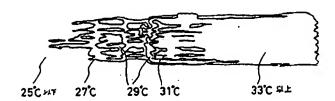


Figure 9 (c)



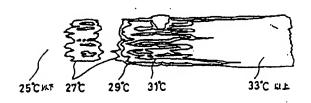
[(1): Or higher]

Figure 10 (a)



[(1): Or lower; (2): Or higher]

Figure 10 (b)



[(1): Or lower; (2): Or higher]